

Ants in S.W. Scotland

By C. A. COLLINGWOOD.

Since the publication of a previous note (1953, *Ent. Rec.*, **65**, 10, pp. 297-298) on ants in Galloway, the area was visited again on the 12th and 13th June 1954, and the following additional records made:

Ayrshire:—On the coast near Girvan, *Lasius umbratus* Nyl.* was present nesting under several stones; 3 dead workers were also found in an adjacent *Lasius niger* L. colony. *Lasius flavus* F. was also abundant in the locality. Other ants present in this area included *Leptothorax acervorum* F.*, *Myrmica laevinodis* Nyl., *Myrmica rubra* L., *Myrmica sabuleti* Meinert* and *Myrmica lobicornis* Nyl.*

Yarrow, 1954, *Trans. Soc. Brit. Ent.*, 11, 11, 229-244, recently published a review of the British ants of the *Formica fusca* group. He points out that the ant hitherto recorded under the name *Formica fusca* L. in North Britain in nearly all cases should be referred to *Formica lemani* Bondroit, a similar species, but distinguished in the worker

caste by coarser puncturation of the head and the presence of abundant bristles on the pronotum. As in the rest of Scotland *F. lemani* occurs abundantly in Ayrshire, Wigtown, Kirkcudbright and Dumfriesshire, with the exception of an area in the Mull of Galloway, Wigtown, where a few colonies of *Formica fusca* were found in a small sheltered valley. Yarrow states that *F. fusca* L. does not occur further north in Britain than the Witherslack area of Westmorland (Vice-county 69) except for the islands of Tiree and Eigg. A slight colour variation of *F. lemani* occurred near Drummore, Wigtown, a number of somewhat reddish workers being taken on a shale heap on 13th June.

*Leptothorax acervorum** was also taken at Drummore, Wigtown, and a worker of *Myrmica lobicornis* was found on the cliffs at Abbey Head Kirkcudbright.

*New County Record.

A list of the ants now known to occur in the area is given below:—

	Ayrshire.	Wigtown.	Kirk- cudbright.	Dumfries.
<i>Formica fusca</i> L.			Mull of Galloway	
.. <i>lemanii</i> Bondroit	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant
<i>Lasius niger</i> L.	Common	Common	Common	Common
.. <i>alienus</i> Foerst.		Luce sands		
.. <i>umbratus</i> Nyl.	Girvan			
.. <i>flavus</i> F.	Common	Common	Common	Common
<i>Myrmica rubra</i> L.	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant
.. <i>laevinodis</i> Nyl.	Common	Common	Common	Common
.. <i>sulcinodis</i> Nyl.	Irvine Moor	Luce sands		
.. <i>scabrinodis</i> Nyl.	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant
.. <i>sabuleti</i> Meinert	Girvan	Mull of Galloway	New Galloway	
.. <i>lobicornis</i> Nyl.	Girvan	Mull of Galloway	New Galloway and Abbey Head	
<i>Leptothorax acervorum</i> F.	Girvan	Drummore	Common	Common

In addition Nelmes (1938, *Journ. Animal Ecology*, 7, p. 102) has recorded one of the forms of the wood ant, *Formica rufa*, from a few localities in Ayrshire, but Dr. Yarrow informs me that he has seen no specimens from Ayrshire and was not able to find this ant on a recent visit to that county.

Service (1896, Scott Elliot's *Flora Dumfriesshire*, XV) has recorded *Tapinoma erraticum* Latr. from Dumfries but this species is characteristically found on warm dry heathland and is not otherwise known to occur further north than Surrey in the British Isles. This record would therefore appear to be unlikely.